



NEWS RELEASE

*Office of the
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for the
District of Nebraska*
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March 9, 2009

United States Attorney Joe W. Stecher and the Drug Enforcement Administration announce the following information for the attention of the media:

Event Triggering this Release:

Jesus Ixta-Salazar was sentenced to 235 months imprisonment by the Honorable Laurie Smith-Camp, United States District Judge, following his conviction for Conspiracy to Distribute Methamphetamine, being an Illegal Alien in Possession of a Firearm, and two counts of Criminal Forfeiture. Ixta-Salazar was ordered to serve 5 years of supervised release following his release from incarceration and pay a \$200 Special Assessment. Additionally, Ixta-Salazar lost any interest he had in a Ruger .45 caliber pistol and \$1,364 in U.S. currency.

After a four day jury trial in December of 2008, Ixta-Salazar was found guilty on all counts he was charged with. The evidence produced at trial revealed that four cooperating witnesses had bought methamphetamine from Ixta-Salazar dating back to August of 2005. The amounts ranged from 3.5 grams up to one pound quantities. Total amount of methamphetamine involved over 10 pounds. The transactions occurred at several different Omaha locations, including shops rented by the defendant.

Additionally, the evidence revealed that Omaha police stopped Ixta-Salazar for speeding on August 8, 2005. Once stopped, he was handcuffed and searched. In his pocket was a \$20 bill folded into a square, containing .1 g of methamphetamine. There was also a methamphetamine pipe under the seat. On October 21, 2005, Omaha police stopped Ixta-Salazar again, this time for fictitious plates. The vehicle was searched incident to arrest. Officers found a baggy containing 5.8 g of methamphetamine, about 75% pure. On Ixta-Salazar's person was \$1,364 cash and a memo book containing apparent drug records.

On May 27, 2008, Bellevue police conducted a traffic stop on Ixta-Salazar based on a disturbance call. An officer searched the car and found a loaded Ruger .45 pistol. Ixta-Salazar said he bought the gun for protection. At the time, officers determined that Ixta-Salazar was in the country illegally.

Name of Defendant: Jesus Ixta-Salazar

AKA: David Feliciano-Soto

AGE: 29

Crime(s) Charged and Potential Penalty (A CHARGE is merely an accusation and every defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty): Conspiracy to Distribute Methamphetamine; 10 years to life imprisonment, \$4,000,000 fine, 5 years supervised release, and \$100 Special Assessment. Illegal Alien in Possession of a Firearm; 0-10 years imprisonment, \$250,000 fine, 3 years of supervised release, and \$100 Special Assessment. Criminal Forfeiture, loss of property. Criminal Forfeiture, loss of currency.

Specific Location of Alleged Crime: Omaha, Ne.

Location of Arrest: Omaha, Ne.

Alleged Dollar Loss/Type and Quantity of Drug: Over 10 pounds of methamphetamine

Others Charged in Same Scheme: Jerrod King

Relevant Dates:

Date of Alleged Crime: August of 2005 through May of 2008

Federal Arrest Date: August 28, 2008

Date Complaint Issued: N/A

Indictment Returned Date: August 20, 2008

Initial Appearance Date: August 28, 2008

Plea Date(s): N/A

Sentencing Date: March 9, 2009

Next Court Hearing Type and Date: N/A

Assigned Magistrate Judge: Thomas D. Thalken

Held without Bond, or Released from Custody: In custody since federal arrest.

In Continuous Custody Since: N/A

Assigned District Court Judge: Laurie Smith Camp

Initials of Assigned AUSA/Preparer of THIS Release: TJK